

RECOGNIZING THE ALLIANCE OF
ILLINOIS JUDGES

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the formation of a new judicial association—the Alliance of Illinois Judges, AIJ, which has been established to address lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues in the judiciary and the legal system as a whole.

Founded by the Lesbian and Gay Judges of the Circuit Court of Cook County, the Alliance of Illinois Judges will serve to assist judges, lawyers and law students; to make sure that LGBT individuals interacting with the legal system are treated with respect and without regard to their sexual orientation or gender identity; and to help people in the LGBT community better understand how the courts and the legal system work.

The Alliance of Illinois Judges has also been set up to advocate for their members. The formation of AIJ reminds us that lesbian and gay judges in Illinois—like lesbian and gay employees all over the country—are treated differently than their heterosexual counterparts. AIJ intends to address these inequities.

In the last 15 years, the judiciary in Illinois and in Cook County has been transformed by the addition of many highly talented and dedicated gay and lesbian judges. Their presence in Cook County has brought about a sea change in attitudes in one of the largest consolidated court systems in the world.

In 1993, Cook County and Illinois took a giant step forward when Judge Tom Chiola, one of the founding members of AIJ, was elected not only as the first openly gay judge but also as the first openly gay elected official in Illinois. Then, in 1996, Judge Sebastian Patti was elected in a countywide election in Cook County, the second largest county in the nation. And in 1999, Nancy Katz, the first lesbian judge, was elected an Associate Judge of the Cook County Circuit Court. This month the Alliance of Illinois Judges is being launched with 16 founding members.

Madam Speaker, I want to offer my very best wishes to the Alliance of Illinois Judges and to all its members. The professional achievements of these individuals, their enormous contributions to the civic life of Chicago, Cook County and Illinois and their dedication to the legal profession remind us once again, especially during Gay Pride Month, of what we as a nation owe to lesbian and gay Americans and to the entire LGBT community.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2892, The FY 2010 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act:

Heartland Preparedness Center, Wichita, Kansas. This bill includes \$500,000 in FEMA

State and Local Programs funding to the City of Wichita, Kansas, for the Heartland Preparedness Center. This emergency operations center will be the primary coordination center in the event of a disaster for local, county, state and federal emergency response personnel and officials. Facility enhancements and equipment are needed to increase the communication, cooperation, training and response capabilities of the Wichita Police Dept, Sedgwick Co Sheriff, Kansas Army Nat'l Guard and USMC. Jointly locating the partnering entities will enhance the overall level of cooperation, coordination and preparation for various emergencies, and provide for more efficient use of resources, including training time and costs.

HONORING THE 37TH
ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 37th anniversary of Title IX. This landmark legislation prohibits sex discrimination in educational programs and activities that receive federal funding, and has expanded educational and career opportunities for countless young women and girls across the United States.

This legislation is most famous for creating opportunities for women in athletics, but this legislation has done so much more. It is hard to imagine a time when women couldn't enroll in any college or university they wanted, had no chance of getting an athletic scholarship, and were steered away from classes in math and science in favor of home economics. But that was the United States before Title IX. This legislation works to address inequality and injustice in all areas of women's lives, from access to higher education, career training and advancement, and gender stereotyping and sexual harassment in schools, just to name a few.

In large part due to Title IX, more women are receiving higher degrees than at any time in the past, more each year are entering traditionally male dominated fields, and hundreds of thousands of girls are living happier and healthier lives because they have the opportunity to be part of a sports team and have strong women role models to look up to.

Yet despite the demonstrated positive impact of Title IX, opponents have tried to weaken this critical legislation. In 2005, the Department of Education issued a Title IX policy clarification that allows schools to use a less rigorous, e-mail based survey method to prove compliance. If enough young women simply deleted the mass e-mail, that was taken to mean that they were not interested in sports, and sports programs for girls could be cut. Men did not face the same burden, revealing a huge double standard while men's interest in sports was taken for granted, women's had to be proven.

What these actions seem to imply is that Title IX's work is done. I have worked to protect and promote women's rights since my very first day in Congress, and I look forward to the time when there is complete gender equality in the United States. But that day is not today.

While Title IX has undoubtedly opened doors for women faculty in higher education, women still make up just 36% of associate professors and 21% of full professors. Only 2.4% of full professors are women of color. Women only receive 20% of computer science and engineering-related Bachelor's degrees, and a joint study by the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine found that women who are interested in science and engineering careers are lost at every educational transition, and those who do enter these fields very likely to face severe discrimination throughout their careers.

The Obama Administration has already made an admirable start in tackling barriers to women's success by promoting work-family balance, establishing the White House Council on Women and Girls, and signing into law the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Strengthening Title IX enforcement at the Department of Education would bolster the progress that has already been made in advancing women's rights, while helping to address the inequalities that remain in so many areas.

Those of us with daughters will probably remember promising them that they can be whatever they want to be when they grow up. Title IX works to make this a reality. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 37th anniversary of Title IX and acknowledging the essential role it has played in expanding opportunities for women and girls in the United States.

INTRODUCING THE FAMILIES FOR
ORPHANS ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, today my colleague Rep. DIANE WATSON and I are introducing the Families for Orphans Act of 2009. This bicameral, bi-partisan bill seeks to provide children in the United States and around the world the best opportunity for the full development of his or her potential by growing up in a permanent family.

Despite good efforts of countless governments and nongovernmental organizations, the number of children growing up without parents is at epidemic levels. Thus, these children are forced to live on the streets, in child-headed households or in institutions, hardly the nurturing environments needed for these children to reach their full potential as productive citizens of the world. Permanency is one of the most important things we can offer children and is something that every child craves.

The United States has long been interested in developing a global strategy for providing permanent parental care for orphans; however, we still lack a clear diplomatic authority to represent these interests. This bill aims to establish the Office of Orphan Policy, Development and Diplomacy, a specialized office in the Department of State. A specially appointed Coordinator would head this office, which would be responsible for developing and implementing comprehensive, evidence-based strategy to support the preservation of families and the provision of permanent families and for orphans. As our diplomats work with countries to prevent terrorism and child trafficking,